

**PARM
LOCAL
WORKING
GROUP**

Date: December 8th, 2005

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: Extension office, Loa, Utah

Members Present;

Verl Bagley (USU/EXT)

Todd Black (USU/EXT)

Teresa Bonzo (UDWR)

Dwayne Elmore (USU)

Leslie Elmore (USU/EXT)

Joe Delabruce (USFS)

Nicole Frey (USU/EXT)

Gary Hallows (landowner)

Jim Lamb (UDWR)

Jo Proctor (USFS)

Joanne Stenton (USFS)

Andy Taft (Landowner)

Ron Torgerson (SITLA)

Nicole Frey (USU Ext)

**Planning/update
meeting**

Information Presented

Todd indicated that he is still compiling information on chapter 2 and would continue to take comments. Todd should have chapter 2 done with in the next month or so and have it out for the next meeting for final review.

Gary Hallows discussed his recent meeting with the Dept. of Ag., UDWR and Wildlife Services. Funding for predator control has been cut due to taxes on wool sales not being what they were in the past. Gary suggested that this group start looking at other means to continue the predator control especially in the valley with the increasing numbers of red foxes. Ron Torgerson suggested that there may be some moneys that SITLA could put into this from the recent Gas exploration monies generated from Wolverine Gas.

Project Updates

Dwayne Elmore—discussed his preliminary results from the grazing and prairie dog study. There were no significant differences in the increase in prairie dog numbers in the enclosures from the different grazing intensities. However, there were increases in both the control and treatment in prairie dog numbers.

Dave Dahlgren was absent and did not provide a write up but Dwayne gave an update on what he could recall on the chick study. Numbers of nesting hens and brood success remained fairly constant with the past few years. The chick study showed that we maybe really under estimating chick survival and over estimating chick mortality as many of the chicks were brood hopping, leaving their mother and going off with another hen.

Jo Proctor working on the Fishlake national forest on Monroe Mountain gave an update of her

data from 2005. Mortality of her sample population was very low as compared to other studies. This population remained fairly close >5 miles to where they were captured with the exception of 3 unknown males that she is still trying to locate. She will continue her efforts this year to try and learn more of what is going on in this area.

Dwayne gave discussion on the corridor treatments in and around existing prairie dog colonies. The graduate student that USU had working on this took another job. Terry is still looking for another grad student the project maybe delayed a year but will continue.

Mike Monsen was absent but provided a handout. Todd gave a report on the aspen regeneration efforts from Mikes report. Pretreatment data was collected during two different time periods throughout the summer. All sites have been treated (aspen logs cut) there are areas that will exclude all ungulate grazing some that will exclude just livestock and others that were untreated and will exclude nothing.

Rick Baxter was absent and didn't provide a report. Todd reported that his efforts continue to be a success and that the study is expanding to include translocated birds from Diamond mtn. area and west Box Elder counting as well as PARM. Rick is planning on taking 30-40 birds from PARM and these other areas again this year.

Todd talked about the new project proposal submitted to PacifiCorp and the Utility commission with regards to looking at power poles and power line adjacency to lek locations. This study will be conducted on Parker Mountain as well as West Box Elder County.

Ron Torgerson gave folks an update on the SPIKE treatments for this fall and showed a map of the areas that were treated. Additionally he gave an update with regards to Wolverine's oil and gas exploration on Parker. They have finished, no results are available yet. A little over \$600,000 was paid to SITLA for this exploration, \$25k has been set aside for project work on PARM.

Gary gave a report that he and Verl had talked with and sent letters to Wildlife Services to address the increasing red fox problems in the valley and up the canyons onto Parker Mountain. Wildlife Services will be addressing these issues.

Jim Lamb gave a report on the population of birds and leks in the PARM area to the group. The formula for determine population numbers was discussed as well.

Actions Taken

The group felt like the grazing intensity study need to continue a few more years. Dwayne suggested that we look at using sheep because he didn't think the cattle could graze it hard enough during the summer months to make a difference. He suggested that we look at late summer early fall grazing with sheep to achieve this objective. Andy and Gary concurred and thought it would be a good idea. Todd agreed to talk with Terry further about this and how it might be accomplished.

The group made it through the population assessment for the PARM area (see attached) in record setting time and with not too much disagreement or heated discussion. This assessment will be reevaluated after the 2008 lek counts. There are several areas that the group identified need work and will discuss later what strategies need to be employed to address these areas.

The group decided to meet on a monthly basis over the winter to move forward with the plan and making the assessments on population and habitat needs. The next meeting scheduled for January 12th at 10:00 AM at the Loa County Building Extension office, 18 S. Main in Loa.

Follow-up Needed and Assignments

The entire group needs to look at other sources of funding and means to continue the predation effort by Wildlife Services.

The entire group needs to make sure they review and understand the habitat guidelines as established by Connelly et al prior to the next meeting. This will be critical as we move ahead with a habitat assessment of the PARM area.

Todd to talk with Terry about the continuation of the grazing study using sheep in the late summer early fall and how this might be accomplished.

Todd to send out Chapter 2 out to the group by January 6th.

Todd to bring GIS to next meeting and revisit PARM boundary and subunits.

Todd to send PARM MOU to group when revised